



Roxann Wedegartner  
Mayor

City of  
**GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone 413-772-1548 ext 3 • Fax 413-772-1309  
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Rachel Lindsay, Acting  
Chair  
Erika LaForme  
Fletcher Harrington  
Travis Drury  
Christin McDonough

Agent: Cassie Tragert

**GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Greenfield Department of Planning and Development  
Online Through WebEx  
Greenfield MA 01301

The meeting was called to order by Rachel Lindsay at 6:31 PM with the following members:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rachel Lindsay  
Erika LaForme  
Travis Drury  
Christin McDonough

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Fletcher Harrington (With Notice)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cassie Tragert (Agent)  
Hasso Ewing (1 Birch Street)  
Gary Blazejewski (NRCS)  
Michael Nelson (Franklin County Fairgrounds)  
Jim Lyons (NRCS)  
Morgan McKee (NRCS)  
Jack (Fairgrounds Contractor)  
Marc Smith (BSC Group)  
Melissa Kaplan (BSC Group)

**Note on Meeting Access in light of COVID-19 State of Emergency:**

*Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Greenfield Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found below. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the City of Greenfield website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.*



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*Should any technical interruption to the meeting occur and the meeting is suddenly ended, it will not be resumed and all items will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting date. Contact the Conservation Agent for more information*

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**Administrative Matters: Approval of Meeting Minutes from 4/27/2021 and 5/11/2021**

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Agent Tragert presented written corrections submitted by Commissioner Harrington in advance of the meeting.

**Motion made by Travis Drury to approve the meeting minutes for the April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting.**

**Motion seconded by Erika LaForme.**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

Agent Tragert presented written corrections submitted by Commissioner Harrington in advance of the meeting.

**Motion made by Erika LaForme to approve the meeting minutes for May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting.**

**Motion seconded by Travis Drury.**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

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**Public Meetings/Hearings**

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➤ **Public Hearing: (Continued from 5/11/2021) Notice of Intent: Slope Stability at Rear Linwood Street associated with Franklin County Fairgrounds; (Map: 33, Lot: 16C) DEP File # 151-0341.**

Jim Lyons of NRCS presented the updated plan which had been revised in accordance with comments received from the previous meeting. The changes included updated plans more clearly showing the wetland boundary showing the lower area of gully A where the drainage approaches the wetland boundary to highlight the pipe termination not being within the Bordering Vegetated Wetland, the 1600 square foot wetland replication area location, square footage calculation of restoration area, and note saying that excavated soil on site will be used on site as opposed to soils/loam from an outside source. Flagging numbers were not included because the applicant said they did not have access to them from the original delineation.

Commissioner Lindsay requested clarification on the proposed plantings list and which from that list will be used. It was also noted that the list is mislabeled with the upland planting list currently labeled as “wetland planting list”. Morgan McKee of NRCS explained that all the listed plants will be included in the seed mix and plugs can be mixed and matched for the site and that that aforementioned error could be fixed as a pre-construction requirement. Commissioner McDonough asked why the range of options for the plugs was necessary. McKee explained that there can be issues in availability of certain species so a range of options is more helpful.

Commissioner Drury noted that any Order of Conditions issued by the Commission should have a specific condition requiring that only soils from on site be used for any fill/replication/restoration fill on site and no off site soils may be used.



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Agent Tragert confirmed that no new comments had been received from DEP.

Commissioner Lindsay asked what the timeline for the work is currently. Mike Nelson of the Fairgrounds explained that they are ready to begin as soon as possible. The contractor explained that they are waiting for the final plans to be approved by the Commission and then would likely be able to begin in the next 3 to 4 weeks. Commissioner Lindsay requested clarification on the planned timing for the plantings and what watering would be used. The contractor explained that they would wait to do any plantings until the end of August because of dry conditions and wait until there is no drought conditions before planting. They will also be hydro seeding to achieve stabilization more quickly in addition to plantings. Agent Tragert noted that a full construction sequencing plan is typically required as a pre-construction requirement for any Order of Conditions issued by the Commission. The contractor agreed to this and noted that erosion control blankets will also be used to protect area. Commissioner Lindsay requested that all straw blankets be made of biodegradable material which was also agreed to. Agent Tragert noted that reporting regarding the planting/replication/restoration areas and general updates are sent to the Commission, not DEP.

Commissioner Lindsay noted that the wetland replication area is not included in the planting plan submitted. Jim Lyons of NRCS explained that that was an error and will be added to the spec sheet as a pre-construction requirement.

Agent Tragert read a written public comment submitted by Thomas Provost of Linwood Street, an abutter to the project. In summary, the comment provided historical context of this residents experience living below the failed slope and expressed concern with how the failure originally occurred due to actions taken by the Fairgrounds as well as how the slope failure has negatively impacted him and his property. The full comment is available for public review upon request. No other comments were received by the Agent nor were made at the meeting by the public.

**Motion made by Erika LaForme to close the hearing for DEP File # 151-0341.**

**Motion seconded by Travis Drury.**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions for this project noting the aforementioned pre-construction requirements. Commissioner Drury requested that specific language regarding invasive species monitoring be included which was agreed to.

**Motion made by Erika LaForme to issue an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions as described in the hearing for DEP File # 151-0341.**

**Motion seconded by Travis Drury.**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**



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➤ **Public Hearing: (Continued from 5/11/2021) Notice of Intent: Single-family home renovation at 1 Birch Street ; (Map: 82 Lot: 26) DEP File #: 168-0340**

Property owner Hasso Ewing presented the updated plans for proposed renovations to the existing single-family home with changes as requested by the Commission at the last hearing. It was noted that the stockpile for material will be located south of the foundation work as far from the 25ft No Disturbance Zone as possible and with preference to above the retaining wall where possible. Stockpiling will likely be required for about 2 weeks of the entire 2 month the project. Commissioner Lindsay noted that the stockpile should be conditioned in any Order of Conditions issued by the Commission to be covered during rain events and at the end of each work day.

Commissioner Lindsay asked if there were any plans to

**Motion made by Erika LaForme to close the hearing for DEP File # 151-0341.**

**Motion seconded by Christin McDonough.**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions for this project noting the aforementioned pre-construction requirements. It was noted that there will be a condition requiring that all straw wattles will be secured by being staked in the center at a distance no greater than every 10ft.

**Motion made by Erika LaForme to issue an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions as described in the hearing for DEP File # 151-0340.**

**Motion seconded by Travis Drury.**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

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**Enforcement Updates & Other Business**

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➤ Enforcement updates

- 21 Spring Terrace (Map 65-9) – unauthorized construction within Riverfront Area.
  - No updates, awaiting review of plantings in the spring.
- 286 Plain Road (Map R34-10) – unauthorized construction within Riverfront Area.
  - No updates.
- 637 Colrain Road (Map R35-7) – unauthorized filling of wetlands.
  - No updates.
- Old Wedgewood Gardens - Kimball Drive (Map 48-24) – unauthorized fill of Riverfront Area.
  - No updates.
- 8 Conway Drive (Map 49-24) – unauthorized fill of Riverfront Area.
  - No updates.



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- Knotweed Removal Project Proposal at Green River Conservation Area – Greenfield resident, Helaina Balcanoff, presented a proposal to conduct knotweed removal at the Green River Conservation Area along the bank and within the Riverfront Area of the Green River. Greenfield resident, Wisty Rorabacher, presented a Knotweed treatment experimental effort to determine what treatments could be most effective for removing knotweed plants and other invasive species while promoting native plant growth. This experimental area is only proposed to be an 30ft by 40ft area. The Commission supported both plans generally, but was ultimately unsure what permitting would be required if any for the work. It was determined that Agent Tragert should be given authority to issue Administrative Approval for the work if it can be determined from DEP that further permitting is not required.

**Motion made by Fletcher Harrington give Agent Tragert temporary authority to issue Administrative Approval to the described project if DEP confirms that no additional permitting is required.**

**Motion seconded by Erika LaForme.**

**No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries**

- Grant Receipt for Griswold/GTD Area. – Lincoln Fish of Bay State Forestry informed the Commission that they had secured the stewardship grant for the previously present invasive species management work. He explained that the grant money of \$2800 must be spent by the end of June. The grant works the 75% (\$2100) of the fund will be paid by the state, while 25% (\$750) must be paid by the City. However, the City portion can be paid by commensurate volunteer labor. Fish explained that he will conduct a workshop for volunteers to teach them how to identify and remove the invasive plants by hand. There will also be invasive removal effort day to follow the workshop. The targeted invasive species are mainly Bittersweet and multiflora rose, but other will also be removed if found. Fish also confirmed that no jurisdictional wetlands or priority habitat are within the treatment areas. Agent Tragert will help to gather volunteers and will reach out to the Recreation Department for help.

**Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to approve the invasive species management plan for Griswold/GTD Conservation Area.**

**Motion seconded by Fletcher Harrington.**

**No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries**

- MACC Conference Review. – No discussion.
- City Ordinance Review. – No discussion.
- Agent Position Updates – Agent Tragert notified the Commission that she will be stepping down as the Conservation Agent due to accepting a position with another municipality, but she will continue to work less hours for the Commission to aid in the transition throughout June.

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**Project Monitoring & Site Visit Scheduling (Continued)**

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- List of active Order of Conditions and updates.
  - 195 Mill Brook Road – Solar Project.



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- No updates.
- 125 Mohawk Trail – Hotel Construction.
  - No updates.
- 739 Bernardston Road – Center School
  - No updates.
- 60 James Street – Single-family home.
  - No updates.
- Wisdom Way/River Street/Mill Street Intersection (DEP #: 168-0338, Exp. 10/27/2023) – Roadway improvements.
  - No updates.

➤ **Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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**Meeting Adjourned at 9:42 PM**

**Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to adjourn at 9:42 PM**

**Motion seconded by Fletcher Harrington**

**No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries**

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Tragert,  
Conservation Agent

Rachel Lindsay,  
Acting Chair